



# *Superior Court of California*

COUNTY OF VENTURA  
Hall of Justice  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

***Michael D. Planet***  
*Executive Officer/Clerk  
and Jury Commissioner*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: April 6, 2004

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## **PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL FORUMS ON LEGAL TOPICS OFFERED**

The Ventura Superior Court has launched a new series of public educational forums in partnership with the Ventura County Law Library and Ventura County Bar Association. The forums are based on legal issues that often arise among people using the court's Self-Help Legal Access Centers.

The forums are held the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Ventura County Law Library. They are offered free of charge and no reservation is required. The Law Library is located in the Hall of Justice at the Ventura County Government Center, 800 S. Victoria Avenue in Ventura.

The first forum was held March 9 on the subject of Home Improvement Contracts. It covered the basic laws governing home improvement contracts from both the homeowner's and contractor's perspective, as well as helpful tips to protect both sides. It was taught by the court's Self-Help Legal Access Center's attorney coordinator Tina Rasnow and Richard Norman, a volunteer attorney from the Ventura County Bar Association.

The next topic to be covered is small claims court on April 13, followed by landlord/tenant law on May 11, and consumer warranty law on June 8. Future topics include mediation and alternative means of resolving disputes, identity theft, labor and employment law, voting rights, predatory lending, and conservatorships.

For further information, call the Ventura County Law Library at (805) 642-8982 or the superior court's Self-Help Legal Access Center at (805) 654-3962.

## **Public Educational Forums on Legal Topics 2004 Schedule of Classes**

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|---------------------------|---|
| <b>March 9, 2004</b>      | <b>Home Improvement Contracts</b><br>Discusses how to protect yourself when entering into a home improvement contract both from the side of the homeowner and the contractor, including mechanic's lien law, labor and material releases, and basic contractor license law. |
| <b>April 13, 2004</b>     | <b>Small Claims Court</b><br>Provides an overview of small claims court and discusses how to prepare cases for court. Alternatives to court will also be discussed.   |
| <b>May 11, 2004</b>       | <b>Landlord/Tenant Law</b><br>Discusses basics of landlord/tenant law from the perspective of both the landlord and tenant.   |
| <b>June 8, 2004</b>       | <b>Consumer Warranties</b><br>Covers basic consumer warranty law, including the "lemon law" for car purchases.  |
| <b>July 13, 2004</b>      | <b>Mediation: an Alternative to Resolving Disputes</b><br>Explains how mediation works and how it can provide a better alternative for resolving many types of disputes.  |
| <b>August 10, 2004</b>    | <b>Identity Theft</b><br>Discusses how to protect and recover from identity theft, one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States.  |
| <b>September 14, 2004</b> | <b>Labor and Employment Law</b><br>Covers basic information regarding labor and employment law from the standpoint of employers and employees, including hiring, wage and termination issues.   |
| <b>October 12, 2004</b>   | <b>Voting Rights</b><br>Covers voting rights issues, including eligibility to vote and restoration of voting rights after felony convictions.   |

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